

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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P R 011205Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8549

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJKAJ

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BAMAKO 0459

AFDROUGHT

E O 11652 N A

SUBJ: SAHEL MEDIUM TERM: PRELIMINARY REPORT ON TASK FORCE
VISIT TO MALI

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO/WA

PARIS FOR HELMANN

YAOUNDE FOR RDO

1. SUMMARY: ON THE BASIS OF RATHER LIMITED PREPARATION
IN MALI, TWO PROJECTS, ONE EACH IN AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK
PRODUCTION HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WHICH REFLECT THE PRIORITY
GIVEN BY GOM TO THE FIRST REGION. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
DATE PERMIT ONLY VERY TENTATIVE COSTING. WE ARE SUGGESTING
MALIANS USE MODULAR APPROACH IN PROJECT DESIGN SO THAT
EVENTUAL COMMITMENTS CAN BE ADJUSTED TO FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR
IMPLEMENTATION. MALI WILL NEED SUBSTANTIAL TECHNICAL
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ASSISTANCE IN PROJECT DESIGN. SUGGEST EARLIEST

POSSIBLE RECRUITMENT OF TECHNICAL TEAM AND SCHEDULING, HOPEFULLY NO LATER THAN END OF MARCH TO ALLOW MINIMUM OF TWO WEEKS IN COUNTRY, INCLUDING NECESSARY SITE VISITS.

2. BACKGROUND: FOLLOWING INITIAL MEETINGS WITH DIRECTEUR DE CABINET SISSOKO OF MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION AND MINISTER OF PRODUCTION COULIBALY IT APPEARED THAT GUIDELINES FOR SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH US WERE GIVEN TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE TECHNICAL SERVICES OF THE MINISTRY. WE HAD MEETINGS SO FAR WITH GENIE RURAL, ECONOMIE RURALE, AGRICULTURE AND THE SERVICE HYDRAULIQUE OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES HAS RECENTLY BEEN DIVIDED, WITH THE SERVICE HYDRAULIQUE RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER RESOURCES FOR LIVESTOCK AND HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND THE GENIE RURAL FOR WATER FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

3. THE LIVESTOCK PROJECT WHICH WE RECOMMEND CONSISTS, AS IN SENEGAL, OF THREE SUB-PROJECTS INTENDED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION BY MEANS OF IMPROVED ANIMAL HEALTH, NUTRITION AND MANAGEMENT. SUBPROJECT A PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAZING RESERVE INITIALLY OF APPROXIMATELY 100,000 HECTARES LOCATED IN RECTANGULAR AREA OF SOME 20 BY 50 KILOMETERS ABOVE THE RIGHT BANK OF THE SENEGAL ALONG THE MAURITANIAN BORDER. THE PROJECT IS ESSENTIALLY THAT OUTLINED IN REX HENRY'S SYNTHESIS PAPER. IN THE ABSENCE OF DR DAOURE, DIRECTEUR DU SERVICE DE L'ELEVAGE IT COULD NOT BE DISCUSSED FURTHER AND IN DETAIL WITH THE SERVICE DE L'ELEVAGE. IT WAS HOWEVER ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS WAS FULLY FAMILIAR WITH THE PROJECT AND FULLY ENDORSES IT AS ONE MOST DIRECTLY RESPONSIVE TO FIRMLY ESTABLISHED PRIORITIES. IT MEETS THE MINISTRY'S CONCERNS WITH RESPECT BOTH TO ITS PURPOSE OF ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF MIGRATORY AND SEMI-SEDENTARY CATTLE RAISERS AND ITS LOCATION IN A POTENTIALLY PRODUCTIVE PASTORAL AREA ASTRIDE ONE OF PRINCIPAL MIGRATORY ROUTES IN SAHEL PROPER. A VERY TENTATIVE COSTING OF THE PROJECT SUGGESTS A FUNDING LEVEL OF APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 600,000 FOR EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF 10 WATER POINTS, AND

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ANCILLARY STRUCTURES SUCH AS CORRALS, DIPPING VATS AND SUCH OVER A 4-YEAR PERIOD. A NECESSARY CREDIT COMPONENT ESTIMATED AT DOLLARS 600,000 COULD POSSIBLY BE PROVIDED BY IBRD/IDA. IN ADDITION, A TECHNICAL INPUT MUST BE SUPPLIED AND COULD BE PROVIDED THROUGH A CONTRACTOR RECRUITED BY US OR UNDER OUR FUNDING BY THE MALIAN MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION AT A COST TENTATIVELY ESTIMATED AT DOLLARS 200,000 TO 250,000 DOLLARS ANNUALLY OVER 4 YEARS.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SUCH A CONTRACTUAL TEAM WOULD INCLUDE TECHNICAL SUPERVISION AS WELL AS IN-COUNTRY AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING OF FIELD STAFF. SUB-PROJECTS B AND C CONSIST OF CONTRUCTION OF FIRE-BREAKS AND OF REFORESTATION, BOTH WITHIN GRAZING RESERVE AND IN THE AREAS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT ALONG PRINCIPAL MIGRATORY ROUTES. REQUEST FOR THESE PROJECTS MADE IN DISCUSSION AT THE MINISTRY WILL BE EXAMINED IN DETAIL AT A MEETING WITH THE SERVICE DES EAUX ET FORETS SCHEDULED PRIOR TO OUR DEPARTURE ON MARCH 1. THESE SUB-PROJECTS WILL BE QUITE STRAIGHT FORWARD AND ARE NOT LIKELY TO PRESENT TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES. WE SHALL SEEK UNIT COSTING TO ENABLE US TO DETERMINE THE SCOPE ON THE BASIS OF FUNDS AVAILABLE. AT THE PRESENT TIME WE ARE PLANNING EXPENDITURES FOR EACH OF THESE TWO ACTIVITIES AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 500,000 DOLLARS. WE SHALL SUMMARIZE THE MARCH 1 MEETING FROM DAKAR.

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AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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AFDROUGHT

4. CROP PRODUCTION: THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION PLACES THE

HIGHEST PRIORITY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL SCALE IRRIGATION PERIMETERS (AMENAGEMENTS AND SEMI-AMENAGEMENTS HYDRO-AGRICOLES) TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL AVAILABLE WATER ALONG RIVERS, STREAMS AND LAKES THROUGH GRAVITY FLOW AND SUPPLEMENTAL PUMPING. THIS VIEW IS SHARED AND SUPPORTED IN A VARIETY OF PROJECTS BY FAC, FED, UNDP AND IBRD. AFTER EXTENDED AND DETAILED DISCUSSIONS THE MINISTRY PROPOSES A PROJECT IN THE AREA FROM KAYES NORTH TO YELIMANI AND THE MAURITANIAN BORDER, ADJOINING THE EAST OPERATION MIL KAARTA WHICH HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO THE CANADIANS FOR FUNDING AND ON THE WEST THE AREA OF OUR LIVESTOCK PROJECT; IMMEDIATELY TO THE SOUTH IS THE SEED IMPROVEMENT AND MULTIPLICATION CENTER FINANCED BY UNDP. THE PROJECT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SAHEL IN NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN. IT PROVIDES FOR THE EVENTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF A TOTAL OF SOME 4,800 HECTARES OF WHICH APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT ARE INTENDED FOR DOUBLE-CROPPING AND A

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POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION TO 20,000 HECTARES. THE PROJECT BUILDS ON AGRICULTURAL COMPONENT OF THE PROPOSAL ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER R AND R PROGRAM (AS MALI 01) AND REJECTED THEN AS BEING MORE SUITABLE FOR THE MEDIUM TERM. THIS APPROACH REFLECTS THE NEED TO BEGIN THE ACTIVITY WITH A STAGE OF STUDY AND DEMONSTRATION PRIOR TO EXPANDING THE AREA ON THE BASIS OF EXPERIENCE. IT IS CLEARLY ALSO INTENTION OF MINISTRY TO LINK CROP PRODUCTION IN IRRIGATED AREAS TO AN INTEGRATED FARMING SYSTEM AND THUS TO CONSIDER IT AS A FIRST ALBEIT IMPORTANT STEP IN RESTRUCTURING ECONOMY OF REGION. THE 5-YEAR PLAN WHICH AT PRESENT DOES NOT GO MUCH BEYOND A STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS ANTICIPATES PROJECT EXPENDITURES AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS OVER FIVE YEARS. THESE ARE SOFT FIGURES, BUT IT SEEMS PLAUSIBLE THAT A WORTHWHILE EFFORT WOULD REQUIRE EXPENDITURES AT APPROXIMATELY THIS LEVEL. WE EXPECT TO GET A SOMEWHAT CLEARER PICTURE AT A FINAL SESSION AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ON MARCH 1 AND HAVE BEEN PROMISED A PRELIMINARY PAPER AT THAT TIME WHICH, IF RECEIVED, WILL BE POUCHED FROM DAKAR.

5. PROCEDURE: FOLLOWING OUR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSIONS WITH EACH OF SERVICES CONCERNED, DIRECTEUR DE CABINET HAS SCHEDULED A WRAP-UP SESSION (REUNION DE SYNTHÈSE) WITH ALL SERVICE DIRECTORS. WE EXPECT THAT AT THAT MEETING THE MINISTRY WILL COMMIT ITSELF FIRMLY TO PROJECTS DISCUSSED ABOVE AND THAT FORMAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROJECT PREPARATION WILL BE ASSIGNED AND A TENTATIVE TIMETABLE DETERMINED. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE INSTITUT DE L'ECONOMIE RURAL WILL BE CHARGED WITH THE COORDINATION REQUIRED TO FORMULATE PROJECTS INVOLVING SEVERAL SERVICES

AND WILL HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
AND BUDGET PREPARATION. WE SHALL REPORT ON THIS FINAL
DISCUSSION FROM DAKAR.

6. PROJECT DESIGN: THE PREPARATION OF ACTIONABLE PROJECTS
WILL REQUIRE EARLY AND SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE BY CONSULTANTS.
IN OPINION OF HENRY AND EDWARDS FOLLOWING SPECIALISTS WILL BE
REQUIRED (NAMES OF POSSIBLE CANDIDATES IN BRACKETS):

A) LIVESTOCK ECONOMIST (DON FERGUSON, BOB SNYDER)
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B) RANGE MANAGEMENT/STOCKWATER DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST
(MERELE CARTER, PAUL JENKINS, DILLARD GATES)

C) PROGRAM OFFICER (ROY STACEY, JESSE SNYDER, DAVID
WALSH)

D) CREDIT ADVISOR, IF CREDIT SUPPLIED BY AID(PRODUCTION
CREDIT ASSOCIATION, FHA)

E) FORESTER/RANGE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (U.S. FOREST SERVICE).

F) EXTENSION SPECIALIST/ECONOMIST (ARTHUR POOLE
CONTACT THROUGH MARTIN BILLINGS)

G) IRRIGATION AGRONOMIST (JAY BAGLEY).

IF WE PLAN ON A PROJECT SUBMISSION DEADLINE AROUND APRIL 30,
ALL OR AT LEAST SOME OF THESE SPECIALISTS SHOULD BE IN THE
FIELD BY MARCH 31, BECAUSE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MALIANS ON
THEIR OWN CAN COMPLETE ACTION ON PROJECTS ALONG LINES
COMPATIBLE WITH AID REQUIREMENTS UNDER REGULAR PROGRAMMING
PROCEDURES.

7. A FINAL WORD ON R AND R. IN THE COURSE OF A COURTESY
CALL ON MI ISTER DOUKARA, HE STATED HOW CONFIDENT AND
COMFORTABLE HE FELT IN HIS CLOSE AND CORDIAL WORKING
RELATIONSHIP WITH JIM KELLY.

8. THE PROJECTS RECOMMENDED IN THIS MESSAGE HAVE BEEN
DISCUSSED WITH FED COMPTROLLER GENERAL BERTRAND, UNDP
RESIDENT REP SCHELLENBERG, FAC DIRECTOR LAPRUN AND
MATON CHIEF OF VISTING FAC MISSION LOURDE.

9. A PRELIMINARY PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR LIVESTOCK WILL BE
PREPARED BY HENRY AND FOR CROP PRODUCTION BY EDWARDS TO
BE FINALIZED AT TIME OF GRAIN SEMINAR.
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